Council Highlights: October 2003

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS is intended to provide quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). It is produced regularly throughout the academic year.

This issue covers the months of July, August, September and October 2003.

Former Waterloo President honoured with Smith Award

At a dinner held in Toronto on October 16, 2003, the third annual David C. Smith Award for Significant Contribution to Scholarship and Policy on Higher Education in Canada was presented to Dr. James Downey, immediate Past President of the University of Waterloo and former Chair of the Council of Ontario Universities.

The David C. Smith Award celebrates the distinguished contributions that the late Dr. Smith made to scholarship and policy in higher education. To further broaden awareness of issues in higher education and of the relationships between public policy and higher education, each year's recipient is invited to deliver a lecture on a subject related to the theme of the award. At this year's dinner, following the presentation of the award by Rev. Mary Smith (Dr. Smith's widow), Dr. Downey delivered a lecture entitled *Schools Are Us*, which will be posted on the COU web site (www.cou.on.ca) by mid-November.

The dinner was also attended by Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Dianne Cunningham and Deputy Minister Kevin Costante, a number of special guests and members of Council.

Past Smith Award winners are Dr. David Cameron, Chair of the Department of Political Science at Dalhousie University, and J. Robert S. Prichard, President and CEO of the Torstar Media Group, former President of the University of Toronto and former Chair of Council.

Bank of Canada Governor to receive OPAS Visionary Award

The Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills (OPAS) has named Dr. David A. Dodge, Governor of the Bank of Canada and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Bank, as the recipient of the 2003 OPAS Visionary Award.

Dr. Dodge, who is an internationally recognized leader in economics and finance, will be presented with the award and deliver his address on November 17, 2003 at Carleton University. In his address, he will share his vision of the economic future of Canada including challenges and opportunities.

This year's Visionary Seminar, the seventh in an annual series presented by OPAS and its university partners, will be broadcast live and by a simultaneous webcast in Canada to a record number of 30 universities at 25 locations across nine provinces.

The Visionary Seminar is a valuable opportunity for local business leaders, faculty and students to hear the views of a respected Canadian leader. This collaborative event also provides universities with the opportunity to forge new relationships with local business leaders.

COU receives over $1.1 million in funding for health-related projects

In April 2003, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care awarded one-time-only funding

totalling over $1.1 million to COU in support of three key health areas:

- **Establishing a new IMG Clearinghouse**

Following the government's 2002 announcement on new international medical graduate (IMG) initiatives to address physician shortages in the province, COU received approximately $540,000 to establish the new Ontario IMG Clearinghouse. Its mandate will be to provide information, including case-managing IMGs through the Ontario regulatory, screening and postgraduate system. The existing Ontario International Medical Graduate Program and Assessment Program for International Medical Graduates will be merged and folded into the new Clearinghouse. COU will work closely with the universities with medical schools, physician organizations and providers to carry out the IMG initiatives. For more information, visit www.library.utoronto.ca/medicine/oimg/clearing_house1.htm.

- **Supporting family medicine projects**

The Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine received approximately $460,000 funding to support a number of one-time projects that will help not only to define underlying issues related to family medicine, but also to take immediate steps to improve recruitment and retention. The projects include a study of medical student career choices, development of recruitment tools and promotional materials, retreats between each family medicine department and academic faculty to better integrate family medicine into the undergraduate curriculum, and an international literature review.

- **Shoring up rehabilitation sciences clinical education**

The Ontario Council of University Programs in Rehabilitation Sciences (OCUPRS) received over $110,000 in funding to support projects that will address concerns about the current and future state of rehabilitation clinical education. The projects – which include information and data collection, identifying solutions and strategies, a pilot and evaluation of strategies – will help to achieve the goal of adequate and quality clinical education for rehabilitation science students in Ontario.

(For the third year, OCUPRS hosted a Rehabilitation Sciences booth at the Ontario Universities' Fair. Volunteers from universities, regulatory bodies and professional colleges in each of the rehabilitation disciplines were on hand to provide information and answer questions for prospective students. For more information on the fair, see page 5.)

OPAS announces "teaching with technology" faculty winners

The winners of the second annual OPAS Awards for Excellence in Teaching with Technology were announced at a special luncheon on October 17, 2003. OPAS established the awards to recognize faculty at Ontario universities who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in using technology to enhance their teaching in two areas: for university students and for people in the workplace involved in continual learning.

The University Award, which was sponsored by CGI Group Inc., was presented to Dr. Gordon Wallace, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa, for the program *1st and 2nd Year Medical Studies*. The Workplace Award, which was sponsored by IBM Canada, was presented to Dr. Thomas Funk, Director of the MBA program in Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business, University of Guelph, for his program *Principles of Relationship Selling*. Each award is valued at $7,500.

Several university presidents, members of the OPAS board and senior-level government representatives attended the luncheon, which was held at the University Club in Toronto

Leading in research and innovation focus of November conference

On November 25, 2003, the Ontario Competitive City Regions Partnership (of which OPAS is a part) and the Canadian Urban Institute will host a one-day conference on Investing in Learning Communities: Collaborating to Compete in the Knowledge Economy.

The conference, chaired by David Johnston, President of the University of Waterloo, will bring together leaders from the universities and colleges, the private sector, local government and communities across Ontario to identify new strategies for transforming their regions in research, innovation and the development of human capital. The keynote speaker will be Roger L. Martin, Chair of the Ontario Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress, and Dean of the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, who will release the Task Force's latest report on "closing the prosperity gap."

Among the experts from Canada, the U.S. and Ireland sharing best practices for effective collaboration will be Bonnie Patterson, President of Trent University, and Carol Stephenson, Dean of the Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario and Chair of the OPAS Board of Directors.

The conference, to be held at the Carlu Events Theatre in Toronto, will be of particular interest to Executive Heads and senior administrators in the fields of research, innovation and advancement. Visit www.canurb.com for more conference information and registration details.

Privacy of personal information legislation

As of January 1, 2004, the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) – which deals with how organizations collect, use and disclose personal information in the course of conducting commercial activities – will be the ruling law in all provinces without similar legislation, which at present includes Ontario. COU, in conjunction with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, engaged Hicks Morley, a legal firm, to assess if PIPEDA applies to universities and, if so, the scope of its application. A general guide about the application and scope of PIPEDA was produced by Hicks Morley for universities to use to inform their stakeholders about the pertinent issues related to the legislation, and COU circulated the guide to all members in September 2003 so that they can tailor it to suit their particular circumstances.

Task Force to define university quality, develop strategies for financing

A Task Force on Quality and Financing, chaired by Dr. Peter George, President of McMaster University, has been established to review the experience in Ontario and other jurisdictions in order to define university quality and develop recommendations on how to effectively enhance and finance it.

The Task Force will examine the following issues:

- the measures currently being undertaken in Ontario universities to improve quality;
- how quality can be enhanced using existing resources;
- the indicators that will demonstrate improvements in quality;
- the benchmarks on quality to be reached by the system and the additional resources required

to meet those benchmarks;

- the appropriate contribution required from all partners (universities, governments, students and donors) to achieve this target; and
- the most effective student assistance program to enable students to make the appropriate contribution while ensuring that they are not denied access for financial reasons.

A report of the findings of the Task Force is expected by spring 2004.

Survey shows double cohort students more similar than different

For the second consecutive year, COU and its member institutions participated in the University Applicant Survey (UAS), conducted by Acumen Research, to obtain insight into behaviours and attitudes of prospective university students.

While COU's Steering Committee on the UAS felt last year that the survey should be conducted every two years, committee members thought that it should be conducted in 2003 to better understand the unique characteristics of double cohort students, and Executive Heads agreed with the recommendation. Results clearly show that there are no significant differences between old and new curriculum students regarding various aspects covered by the survey, which included academic characteristics, university perceptions, Internet and web usage, and demographics.

A summary of the 2003 survey system-wide results will be posted on COU's web site (www.cou.on.ca) in November.

New directions for the College-University Consortium Council

The government has announced that plans are underway to expand and enhance the mandate, membership and resources of the College-University Consortium Council (CUCC) for a stronger, more proactive Council. It is expected that final details, including a possible name change, will be announced later this fall.

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities officials have suggested that the new Council's mandate will be strengthened beyond that of CUCC's in providing leadership and advice not only to Ontario's publicly funded college and university system, but also to the Ministry in co-ordinating and advancing postsecondary education initiatives between the colleges and universities.

For more information about CUCC, visit its web site (www.cou.on.ca/cucc) or refer to the Ontario College-University Transfer Guide (www.ocutg.on.ca).

Another resounding success for Ontario Universities' Fair

The seventh annual Ontario Universities' Fair, held this year at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on September 25, 26 and 27, was attended by an estimated 60,000 people. All of Ontario's universities including the Ontario College of Art & Design, the Royal Military College of Canada and the newly established University of Ontario Institute of Technology were represented at the no-charge event.

This year's fair followed the tried-and-true formula of the previous fairs. Each university presented a booth staffed by admissions, student services, academic and student representatives, who made themselves available to students and parents alike to provide information and answer questions. Each institution also handed out extensive material on their undergraduate programs.

anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 brochures per university, in addition to presenting regularly scheduled information sessions on available programs, admission requirements and campus life throughout the course of the three days.

Traditionally, the fair runs from Friday to Sunday. However, the weekend of the 2003 Ontario Universities' Fair coincided with Rosh Hashanah, so the event was pushed back a day (from Thursday to Saturday) to allow observant Jewish students and parents two full days to attend. Next year, the fair will return to its traditional Friday-to-Sunday format.

The fair, which was chaired by Don Murdoch of York University, was organized by the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison as part of the University Information Program.

Alastair Summerlee named U of G's seventh president

Alastair J. Summerlee assumed the role of the seventh president of the University of Guelph (U of G), effective July 15, 2003. It was the first time in the university's history that an internal candidate has been named president.

Dr. Summerlee, whose career as a scholar, professor, researcher and administrator spans nearly 30 years, joined the university in 1988 as a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. He was named Associate Dean of the Ontario Veterinary College in 1992, Dean of Graduate Studies in 1995, Associate Vice-President (Academic) in 1999, and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) in 2000.

Dr. Summerlee, who has continued teaching while holding administrative positions, was awarded a prestigious 3M Teaching Fellowship in June 2003 for outstanding leadership in teaching, education and academic program development. He is the only U of G professor to earn the honour while serving as an administrator and is the first president-elect in Canada to be named a 3M Fellow. He was also recognized with a Distinguished Professorial Teaching Award from the U of G Faculty Association in 1991.

His research in biomedical sciences is also acclaimed internationally, attracting significant financial support for his research. He is published extensively and has been invited to lecture at universities and colleges around the world. He holds a BSc, BVSc and PhD from the University of Bristol in the U.K. and is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr. Summerlee succeeds Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, who is now the President of Rider University in New Jersey.

Dennis Mock appointed Nipissing's Interim President

On August 1, 2003, Dennis Mock began his one-year term as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of Nipissing University.

Dr. Mock, who has an extensive background in senior-level university administration, was most recently President of D. Mock and Associates, a consulting firm servicing the postsecondary education sector. Prior to this, Dr. Mock's career spanned some 31 years at Ryerson University, serving as Chair of the Geography Department from 1979-87, Executive Assistant to the Vice-President, Academic from 1987-1988, Registrar from 1988-89, Acting President from 1990-91, and Vice-President, Academic from 1989-2000.

Dr. Mock was instrumental in providing leadership during many profound changes at Ryerson. He also represented Ryerson on two province-wide committees: the College-University Consortium Council and the Nursing Education Implementation Committee. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Western Ontario, and a master's degree and PhD from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Mock succeeds Dr. David Marshall, who is now the President of Mount Royal College in Calgary.

Council welcomes new Academic Colleagues

This year, in addition to two new Executive Heads, Council welcomes eight new Academic Colleagues:

- Prof. Michael Fox, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University
- Dr. Alan Shepard, Director of the School of English and Theatre Studies, University of Guelph
- Dr. Sanjeev Bhole, Chair of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Ryerson University
- Dr. James Neufeld, Chair of the Department of English Literature, Trent University
- Dr. Alan Plumtree, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Waterloo
- Dr. Bob Sharpe, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Dr. Linda McKay, Faculty of Education, University of Windsor
- Dr. Kathryn Shailer, Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Studies, Ontario College of Art & Design

New Executive Director on board at the Application Centre

On September 2, 2003, George Granger assumed the position of Executive Director of the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), the highly automated centralized application processing service centre for Ontario's universities. Mr. Granger, who is the former Registrar of McMaster University, brings more than 23 years of university experience to this position. He joined the University of Guelph as an admissions counsellor in 1980, moved to Wilfrid Laurier University one year later where he became Associate Registrar and Director of Admissions, and then joined McMaster University in 1995 as its Registrar. He has served on numerous committees, special task forces and affiliate groups within COU and the Ontario university community including the COU Task Force on Admissions, the OUAC Advisory Board and the *INFO* Editorial Board.

Mr. Granger succeeds Gregory Marcotte, who left the Centre to pursue consultancy work.

Task Force on Access for Students with Disabilities established

In June 2003, the COU Task Force on Access for Students with Disabilities was established, primarily to provide members with a means to share information and concerns while they finalized their accessibility plans by September 30, as mandated by the Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The legislation also stipulates plans must be publicly available by that date, although they do not have to be submitted to government. Several meetings were held over the summer months, and the result was an active exchange of ideas.

Council hosts two international delegations

On September 4, 2003, COU hosted a working luncheon with a delegation of 16 German university presidents and rectors and three representatives of the New York-based organizing group, the German Academic Exchange Service. Topics discussed included issues related to federal and provincial legislation, best practices and centralized applications processing.

On October 15, 2003, COU hosted a delegation of approximately 20 senior Chinese university officials. The morning meeting involved discussions on Council's interactions, research at Ontario universities, graduate education and quality issues at Ontario universities.

Brochure on collaborative nursing published

The Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing, in association with the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Heads of Nursing, the Ontario Universities' Application Centre and the Ontario College Application Services, recently published a brochure that details the baccalaureate degree in nursing that will soon become the minimum education requirement for future registered nurses (RN) in the province. The brochure, entitled *Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing – Ontario's Collaborative Nursing Programs*, is designed to help inform guidance counsellors as well as students who are interested in becoming a RN.